

June 19, 2019

Rep. Alan Lowenthal, Chair
Rep. Paul Gosar, Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Reps Lowenthal and Gosar,

On behalf of the North Fork Valley Creative Coalition, located in Paonia, Colorado, we are writing to offer our support for the Restoring Community Input and Public Protections in Oil and Gas Leasing Act of 2019, HR 3225.

Oil and gas leasing and development carries with it many potential impacts that bring risks to our community, including loss of public land access, potential for industrial development that directly displaces and disrupts other uses and current economic activity including hunting, recreation, livestock grazing, and secure wildlife habitat. In order to properly and fully consider these things, adequate time is necessary to properly consider proposed oil and gas leases, to allow our citizens time to offer input and information, and to provide meaningful comment to the relevant land management agencies. This is why we support HR 3225.

Specifically, we support provisions for greater time for public and stakeholder input, shorter lease terms to ensure the agency is always using the best, most current information, and the requirement that other resources be given proper consideration when deciding which of our public lands are suitable for this activity and which are best managed for the many other public and environmental benefits they offer.

Our public lands are very important to the North Fork Valley Creative Coalition and our members, and we both appreciate and expect the opportunity to participate fully in their management. HR 3225 is important legislation that would better ensure that organizations such as North Fork Valley Creative Coalition are able to provide that input and to better ensure the needs of our constituents are being met.

Thank you for your consideration, and we urge that this subcommittee support and mark up this legislation, and to support its passage into law.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Kaldis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Kaldis
Board President, North Fork Valley Creative Coalition
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